

REMARKS

Claims 3-5 and 10 are pending in this application after this Amendment. Claims 1, 2, and 6-9 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter included therein. In light of the amendments and remarks contained herein, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in proper form for allowance.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Moorman* (USP 5,041,911) in view of *Ueno et al.* (USP 5,625,415); and rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Moorman* in view of *Ueno et al.* and further in view of *Jackson et al.* (USP 5,164,836). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating claims 3-5 and 10 include allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-2 and 6-9 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter included therein. Applicant has further rewritten allowable claims 3-5 and 10 in independent form. These amendments are being made without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to timely advance prosecution of the present application.

As all of the rejected claims have been cancelled and the allowable claims have been rewritten in independent form, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is now in proper form for allowance.

Application No. 09/492,382
Amendment dated June 19, 2006
After Final Office Action of January 11, 2006

Docket No.: 0879-0249P

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: June 19, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Marc S. Weiner

Registration No.: 32,181

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant